

AMENDMENTSIn the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, and 16 as follows:

1. (AMENDED ONCE) A method for managing a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

[using said subset wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes are modified in response to said client request; and]

modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database in response to said client request; and

managing said nodes using said state attributes.

5. (AMENDED ONCE) The method of claim 1 wherein said nodes are organized in [using] a Document Object Model format.

6. (AMENDED ONCE) A manager for one or more nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

a subset of said nodes configured to be accessed in response to a user request;

one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database in response to said client request when said subset is used; and

said manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

10. (AMENDED ONCE) The manager of claim 6 wherein said nodes are organized in [using] a DOM format.

11. (AMENDED ONCE) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to manage a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to access a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to use said subset wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database are modified in response to said client request; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

15. (AMENDED ONCE) The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said data nodes are organized in [using] a DOM format.

16. (AMENDED ONCE) An apparatus comprising:

a subset of one or more nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network configured to be accessed in response to a client request [wherein said subset is used wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes are modified in response to said client request];

one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database in response to said client request when said subset is used; and

a manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.